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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Human resources management

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide: detailed report

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Improving reporting mechanisms including public access to United Nations documentation

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I. Introduction

1. In proposal 19 and part of proposal 18 of his report on investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide (A/60/692), the Secretary-General proposed, inter alia, to improve reporting mechanisms by developing a single, comprehensive annual report, containing both financial and programme information, identifying opportunities to streamline Secretariat reports and improving public access to United Nations documentation.

2. In section VII of its resolution 60/260, the General Assembly emphasized, inter alia, the importance of providing the information necessary to enable Member States to make well-informed decisions; recalled paragraph 20 of its resolution 57/300, paragraph 6 of the annex to resolution 58/316 and paragraph 16 of its resolution 59/313 and requested the Secretary-General to implement measures in accordance with those paragraphs with a view to consolidating reports on related subjects; and reaffirmed the role of the Fifth Committee as the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for consideration of reports on administrative and budgetary matters.

3. In preparing the present report due consideration has been given to the provisions of resolution 60/260 and the guidance of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as contained in its report (A/60/735), bearing in mind that the General Assembly took note of that report. As regards follow-up to the requests contained in Assembly resolution 57/300 and subsequent resolutions, the President of the Assembly initiated the process, but the attempt at consultation with the Chairmen of the Main Committees is yet to yield results. Nevertheless, given the clear thrust of the three resolutions for consolidating, the Secretary-General has continued his own efforts in this regard.

4. As to a single annual report containing both financial and programme information, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions made reference to its statement, reflected in paragraph 18 of its report on the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/58/7), that:

> "the current practice of reporting on programme and financial performance separately and on separate cycles needs to be reformed to make it consistent with and supportive of results-based budgeting. The Committee therefore recommends that a single report be issued that would cover both programme and financial performance for the same period. Such reports should be available for use during the formulation and consideration of the proposed programme budget."

5. Regarding the second item of proposal 19, detailed information is provided under section III below concerning the existing reports on management and finance issues proposed for consolidation. In evaluating possible opportunities for streamlining management and finance-related reports, the provisions contained under the relevant General Assembly resolutions have been taken into consideration. In particular, due consideration has been given to the provision contained under (a) paragraph 20 of resolution 57/300, (b) paragraph 7 of annex B to resolution 58/126, (c) paragraph 6 (c) of the annex to resolution 58/316, (d) paragraph 16 of resolution 59/313 and (e) section VII of resolution 60/260.

6. In section IV of the present report, in line with the fourth item under proposal 19 contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/692), a detailed proposal is submitted that contains new and clear rules on public access to United Nations documentation. This is an effort to operationalize the vision for transparency expressed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 85 (d) of his report, where the public would be told clearly that it could request United Nations Secretariat documents, how to make such requests and on what principles they would be granted or denied access.

II. Annual report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the performance of the Organization

7. The reporting mechanisms would be improved by a number of measures, including the development of a single, comprehensive annual report that would contain both financial and programme information.

8. The first annual report to be provided would cover the year 2005. This initial effort should be regarded as a first step towards the realization of a well-focused reporting instrument, aimed at assessing performance and reinforcing accountability. While the report is designed to provide key information and would not require action by Member States, feedback from Member States will be critical in validating and refining the concept as embodied in the initial product. At the same time, mandated reports, such as the United Nations financial statements and reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and the United Nations Board of External Auditors, will continue to be provided directly to the Fifth Committee, as is the current practice.

9. The report, given its blending of strategic perspective and performance analysis of the key programmes, is intended to be a tool to enhance accountability of the Secretariat to Member States and to the public at large. Currently, there is no single document that provides a full and well-balanced picture of the Secretariat's activities, resources and accomplishments in a given calendar year. In addition, there is currently no report that addresses challenges to management and performance, and actions planned or taken to address such challenges. Should the report prove to be useful in enhancing transparency and accountability, further efforts will be devoted to exploring, with intergovernmental bodies, additional opportunities for the integration of performance reporting on related subjects.

10. Performance and financial information is currently provided to the General Assembly in separate reports, by a variety of offices and on different schedules. An annual report that links policy priorities, programme activities and resources and discusses management challenges and corrective actions would provide the information necessary for the Assembly and the global public to assess the Organization's performance and management of resources.

11. The report aims to be contemporary in style and format, substantive in level and type of content (goals, outcomes and metrics) and balanced, transparent and frank in fact and tone. It will feature a mix of exposition, graphic depiction of performance data, photographs and illustrative vignettes. It will juxtapose the Secretariat's own self-assessment with the intact and independent reports of OIOS and the Board of Auditors.

A. Structure

12. While the annual report on 2005 is expected to be issued in the second half of 2006, detailed information on the proposed format and contents of the report is set out below.

(a) *Overview section*. This section will comprise the introduction by the Secretary-General and will set the overall context for the year and describe the most important programmatic and Secretariat-wide priorities of the Organization, as referenced to the revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6/Rev.1). Key issues addressed will be highlighted, as well as milestones achieved and challenges faced in 2005. Examples of the types of progress to be highlighted in this section could range from successful elections in post-conflict situations, such as in Haiti, to the new whistle-blower protection and financial disclosure policies, as would be reflective for the year in question. Issues worthy of coverage in this section might include managing consequences of major investigations.

(b) *Management's discussion and analysis section*. This section will highlight major findings from different parts of the report and will be supported and supplemented by detailed information contained in the performance section and the financial section (see below). It will include an organizational overview, a summary of the most important performance results and challenges for 2005, a brief analysis of financial performance and a brief description of systems, controls and compliance, including an analysis of the modalities for quality assurance through independent audit and oversight regimes. The section will also address the management challenges identified by the oversight bodies and any corrective actions taken or planned.

(c) *OIOS discussion and analysis section*. This section will contain an independent summary of the most serious management and performance challenges facing the Secretariat and a brief assessment of the Secretariat's progress in addressing those challenges. It will include comments of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, a summary of the 2005 performance of the United Nations Secretariat, risk analysis and management and performance challenges.

(d) *Performance section*. This section will capture, in a results-oriented manner, the Secretariat's engagement in 2005 with the strategic priorities included in the revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6/Rev.1). Progress will be demonstrated by analysing, chapter by chapter, the results of performance in the programme objectives, including key underlying subprogramme objectives, as they link to each strategic priority. For each subprogramme objective, the report will show baseline data, the target result for 2005 and the actual outcome for 2005. Both regular and extrabudgetary resources will be provided for each subprogramme objective and strategic priority. On the basis of review and decision by the General Assembly, the performance section of the report could in future be considered to replace the present biennial programme performance report by OIOS, which focuses mainly on inputs and outputs rather than outcomes and results. Reporting on genuine outcomes will be an evolutionary process as the Secretariat strengthens and refines its strategic planning and develops outcome-oriented performance goals, measures, baseline data and timelines.

(e) *Financial section*. In addition to an overarching financial analysis by the Secretariat, this section will contain the following for each Secretariat organization/programme: an independent summary by the Board of Auditors of the Board's principle findings and recommendations; the Board's audit opinion; the Controller's certification; and extracts of the financial statements.

(f) *Appendices*

- Directory of key Secretariat officials and senior management
- United Nations locations (contact information for the four headquarters locations and regional commissions)
- Major United Nations publications (titles, Web links)
- Directory of funds and programmes (leadership, websites, major publications)
- Glossary of acronyms
- Directory of permanent representatives to the United Nations

B. Methodological challenges

13. There are a number of challenges and considerations in selecting the most useful content for the proposed report. The roles and functions entrusted to the Secretariat range widely from setting global standards and norms to advocacy and operations. The strategic priority areas are similarly diverse and complex, from peacekeeping to international law and African development. Accordingly, it is difficult to achieve a cohesive or singular way of defining and assessing results. At a minimum, a mixture of qualitative and quantitative analysis must be applied.

14. In designing the proposed report, a number of technical questions are being addressed. The following indicate the range of such methodological issues that call for creative solutions:

(a) Determining how to segment out that portion of Secretariat plans, budgets and performance that refers to 2005 only, but has a biennial or multi-year dimension;

(b) Attributing accomplishment where multiple players are involved, while ensuring that partners are neither over nor under-credited;

(c) Ensuring plausible claims of outcomes — using good judgement in claiming the effects of programme activity, setting the boundaries of claims and acknowledging multiple factors;

(d) Presenting diverse performance data, especially in framing the contrast between concrete metrics for some accomplishments and evaluations of "soft outcomes" in others; for example, influencing policy, enhancing coordination and improving participation;

(e) Defining, beyond their regular budget allocations, which other sources of funding should be reported and the appropriate emphasis and detail in the association with strategic organizational goals.

15. Both the content proposed to be included in the annual report and the engagement with methodological challenges have been the subject of extensive

internal consultations. For example, the Audit Operations Committee of the Board of Auditors has consented to provide an independent summary report on an annual basis. Furthermore, technical workshops among the contributors of information from the programmes have addressed the key issues of selecting highlights, challenges and programme results from 2005, as well as identifying the relevant performance data.

16. As to the impact of the publication of the annual report on the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules, the subject will be evaluated further in conjunction with the other proposals contained in the present report and associated addenda to ensure a comprehensive approach to changes that may be required. Following such review and identification of any required changes to the Financial Regulations, these would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly in due course for its consideration and approval.

17. The requirements for the publication of the 2005 annual report, involving, inter alia, staff resources, design and printing, will be met from within resources approved under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. It is anticipated, however, that in future, in order for the Board of Auditors to conduct annual audits of all financial statements to be included in the report, additional resources would be required by the Board under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the programme budget. The quantum of resources and programmatic implications for the Board is currently under review by the Board.

III. Streamlining management and finance-related reports

18. The problem of the number of reports and documents requested from various intergovernmental bodies is not new. In particular, it is recalled that in his report on strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change (A/57/387 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General put forward, inter alia, a variety of proposals for reducing the excessive number of reports and documents, and some progress was achieved (see action 11 (a)).

19. In his report on the status of implementation of actions described in the report on strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change (A/58/351), the Secretary-General expressed his intention to request all concerned departments and offices to continue vigorously reviewing their reporting requirements with a view to further consolidating reports, where possible. While some progress has been achieved, more needs to be done and it is now more vital than ever to ensure that the Secretariat provides information in a strategic and creative manner that meets the true demand for knowledge about the work of the United Nations.

20. It is in this context that the proposal was submitted in the report on investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide (A/60/692) to build on earlier work done in rationalizing reporting and to identify possible opportunities for consolidating management and finance-related reports.

21. Accordingly, it is proposed to consolidate over 40 existing reports on management and finance issues into six reports. The complete list of the existing reports proposed to the General Assembly for consolidation is contained in annex I to the present report.

22. In any given recent biennium, more than 150 management-related reports and financial statements are submitted by the Department of Management alone to the General Assembly for consideration. Notably, as reporting requirements continue to increase, from 145 reports during the fifty-fifth session to 166 reports during the sixtieth session, the increasing number of reports results in diminished opportunity to undertake comprehensive and detailed analysis, so that reporting quality could potentially deteriorate. This has the potential of not providing Member States with the full information necessary for them to make well-informed decisions. Accordingly, the main objective underlying the proposal to streamline reports is to provide more strategic and analytical information to Member States to enable them to evaluate Secretariat actions and ensure proper implementation of mandates.

23. In putting forward the proposal, full consultation was undertaken among component offices of the Department of Management with a view to maximizing the value of reporting without compromising quality or quantity. The focus was primarily on reports with either complementary or overlapping subjects, for example, reports pertaining to management improvement measures. In addition, over the past several years, the United Nations has made a sizeable investment in enhanced information and communication technology capacity. However, these enhancements have not been fully exploited to provide real-time reports to Member States. Many reports that consist largely of quantitative or tabular material may be more appropriately provided on the Web or extranet. Accordingly, there are opportunities for innovative, cost-effective and real-time reporting that could better serve Member States' needs for information for effective decision-making, without compromising quality and detail.

24. The proposal continues to be reviewed by the Department of Management. The timing of implementation is subject to General Assembly approval. Should agreement to accept this proposal to consolidate the reports be forthcoming, the Secretariat would begin implementation during the sixty-first session.

IV. Public access to United Nations documentation

25. Under proposal 19 of his report (A/60/692), the Secretary-General proposes a policy that will make possible clearer rules for public access to Secretariat documentation. The objective of the new policy is to make the Secretariat more open, transparent and accountable by facilitating public inquiries into the operations of the Organization in a manner that is consistent with public expectations for global governance in the twenty-first century. The policy will modernize and replace current United Nations rules for access to non-published United Nations documentation. Similar policies at the national and international levels were examined and used in developing this policy. In addition, an analysis was made of the likely impact of the access policy in the context of an assessment of the policy objectives against current information/records management practices across the Secretariat.

26. In brief, the policy put forward by the Secretary-General articulates a clear presumption in favour of public access to all documentation created or received by the Secretariat, unless there is a compelling reason, measured against defined exemptions, to preclude release. By establishing a clear framework of rules for the release of documentation to the public, the policy marks an improvement in the current practice.

27. A necessary element to realizing the objectives of the policy will be capacity-building and managing necessary changes in the work processes of the Secretariat to foster compliance with this policy. The plan of action proposed below focuses on strengthening the Secretariat's records management capacity as a necessary foundation to facilitating public access to Secretariat documentation. The risks of issuing the policy without sufficient capacity and capability for compliant implementation include possible damage to the Organization's credibility and the failure to capitalize on the potential synergies between the access policy and related reform measures, such as knowledge-sharing, governance and accountability. As such, this proposal recommends a phased implementation of the public access to documentation policy.

A. Current access to United Nations documentation

28. Currently, "official" United Nations documentation is accessible via the official document system as well as United Nations information centres. These documents include official records and documents of the Security Council, General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies, official communications from Member States and reports of the Secretary-General and of the Secretariat. Similarly, the following are also included: internal rules and guidelines of the Organization, including Staff Regulations and Rules and Financial Regulations and Rules; Secretary-General's bulletins; administrative instructions; information circulars; and various manuals. These documents are freely available to the public in all official languages of the Organization. The publication of "official" documentation in all official languages will continue alongside the policy of broader public access to documentation that is now being proposed. Under the proposed policy of access to documentation, the Secretariat documents that will be made accessible to the public will be available in the language in which they were generated or received by the Organization (unless they have already been translated, in which case they will be released in available languages).

29. Historical records of the Organization that are transferred to the United Nations archives are currently also available for public research when they are 20 years old, provided they are not classified. Access to earlier records and requests to declassify records may be made by the public, although no clear rules or procedures exist as to their release.

30. The Secretariat's regulatory framework in respect of public access to its documentation is, however, neither clear nor systematic at present. Existing administrative rules confirm that such documents are presumptively releasable to the public upon request. However, these instructions and bulletins do not precisely set forth the criteria that are to be applied to refuse access to a given document. Moreover, persons who have been denied access to a Secretariat document have no remedies, as there is no review mechanism.

B. The policy

31. Under the new policy proposed by the Secretary-General, all United Nations departments and offices, including offices away from Headquarters, peacekeeping missions, special political missions and tribunals will make available to the public

any document produced or received by the United Nations, subject to the exceptions below.

32. The policy will apply both to existing and future Secretariat documentation. Documentation will be defined as any kind of information content, including print, digital, audio and video records. Archived, classified, or internal documents are all within this definition of "document". Working documents (i.e. draft resolutions and non-papers) received from Member States or United Nations organs other than the Secretariat will not be subject to the policy.

33. For access to a document to be denied, the document must fall under one of the exceptions summarized below:

(a) Documents generated by the United Nations, received from or sent to third parties under an expectation of confidentiality;

(b) Documents whose release is likely to cause harm to an individual or invade his or her privacy;

(c) Documents whose release is likely to endanger the security of Member States or of the United Nations, including military or peacekeeping operations;

(d) Documents covered by legal privilege, or related to internal investigations;

(e) Internal inter-office or intra-office documents, including draft documents, if release would undermine the Organization's free and independent decision-making process;

(f) Documents containing commercial information, if release would harm either the financial interests of the United Nations or those of other parties involved.

34. In addition, abusive, excessive or vexatious requests may be denied. These exceptions are in line with those adopted by many Member States and international organizations in their laws and policies and are limited to what is necessary to preserve essential public (e.g. peacekeeping missions) or private (e.g. personal privacy) interests.

35. When only some portions of a document are covered by an exception, the confidential portions should be redacted and the remainder of the document should be made available, if feasible.

36. A document falling within an exception in paragraph 33 can nonetheless be released to the public, at the discretion of the Secretary-General, if he or she deems that the interests in favour of access outweigh those protected by confidentiality. Nevertheless, before releasing a confidential document, as detailed in paragraph 33 (a), the Secretary-General should normally obtain the consent of the relevant party.

37. A document falling within an exception in paragraph 33 can also be released if more than 20 years have elapsed since the date of preparation or receipt of the document and the Secretary-General considers that such release is not prejudicial to the interests of the Organization or those of third parties. Documents covered by the exception in paragraph 33 (b) should, however, only be released after 40 years.

38. The Secretariat wishes to encourage the public to take an active interest in its activities. As such, the policy ensures that the procedure to access United Nations documents is as simple as possible. All requests for documents are to be addressed to an office that will be created within the Department of Management which will

refer them to the department or office most likely to hold the document sought by the applicant. The department or office should respond promptly to all requests. Denials of requests must be justified and the applicant will have the possibility to seek reconsideration from an internal committee. The department or office that handled the initial request may provide written comments and can, upon request, be heard by the committee.

39. A number of steps will be taken to ensure that this new policy is broadly disseminated and well publicized. A reference guide will be issued to explain the new policy to the public. An administrative issuance, together with a commentary, if necessary, will be promulgated to implement and explain the policy internally.

40. The Secretariat will ensure that the new policy is effectively implemented by reviewing its implementation annually. This annual report will be made public. The analysis of the report, together with comments by interested parties, will help the Organization continually improve its access practices. Furthermore, the internal and external oversight bodies of the Secretariat (OIOS, the Joint Inspection Unit and the Board of Auditors) are mandated to review the implementation of the policy.

41. The application of this policy will be without prejudice to the Organization's obligations pursuant to international agreements, contracts or similar undertakings or resulting from legislative mandates of the principal United Nations organs.

C. Proposed plan of action

42. It is proposed that implementation of the policy occur in two phases. Phase one would commence following designation by the Department of Management of an office responsible for undertaking the strategic and operational planning for the first phase. This is envisaged as a preparation period of two years, during which the capacity to effectively implement the access to documentation policy in the Secretariat is built, with an emphasis on developing compliant records management programmes across the Secretariat to manage paper and digital records and documents. The policy would not be in force during this period. In phase two, projected to commence in mid-2008, the policy would come into force and be fully operational.

Phase one (2006-May 2008)

43. During phase one, a gap analysis of the capacity of Secretariat offices to implement the policy will be conducted so as to enable appropriate strategic and budget planning for the next biennium. Inventories and analysis of the Organization's information assets will be used to define categories of documentation which could be subject to public access. Change management activities will be planned in order to foster awareness of the need for openness and transparency, in keeping with the policy. In addition, it is foreseen that the following actions will need to be undertaken:

(a) *Prepare related policies, issuances and guidelines.* The relevant administrative issuances and public information material will be prepared. The issuances will cover both public access and internal records management;

(b) *Carry out communication, training and education.* Communication, training and education are key components of change management in the

implementation of the access to documentation policy. Training content and implementation throughout the Organization will be coordinated with the Office of Human Resources Management. An action plan will be formulated, which should include:

(i) documentation access awareness programmes;

(ii) business process analysis programmes;

(iii) brochures and questionnaires;

(iv) Web training, resources, links;

(v) workshops, "feedback programmes", posters and other modes of communication; and

(vi) targeted outreach to all United Nations information providers/brokers/recipients, including Member States and the private sector. Communication, training and education will be ongoing and will be incorporated into the standard learning and development programmes of the Office of Human Resources Management.

(c) *Fully assess the resource impact of the policy on all Secretariat offices.* Understanding the full implications of the policy will require further research and study. While the most obvious impact on Secretariat offices will be the need to respond to access requests in compliant fashion, a range of activities require budgetary consideration, such as: OIOS (monitoring and oversight); the Department of Public Information (use of the United Nations website); the Office of Human Resources Management (change management/training; review of issuances and guidelines); the Office of Legal Affairs (advisory services, participation in the review committee); the Information Technology Services Division (information systems); the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (endorsement, advisory panels, appeals mechanism); and the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts (chargeback and financing mechanism).

(d) *Develop indicator definitions and transparency standards.* Comprehensive baseline standards need to be developed for transparency for all documentation created or received by the Secretariat. This will entail deconstructing (in cross-cutting, functional analysis) all lines of business of the Organization into broad categories (inter alia, technical assistance, policies and strategies, and Organization-wide evaluations and audits). The broad categories will then be broken down into indicators of transparency based on the types of documentation that result from United Nations business activities.

(e) *Develop an information products inventory.* Based upon the indicator definitions and transparency standards, the transition team will be charged with developing the first draft of an information products inventory, designed to inform the public about which documentation is routinely disclosed. The appraisal and retrospective classification of 60 years of legacy documentation in all formats, including electronic format, represents a huge volume and therefore a significant challenge.

(f) *Declassify disclosable archives.* The United Nations archives will manage (within the request management framework) access requests for historical documentation preserved as archives and inactive documentation transferred to

secondary storage until they can be destroyed under approved retention policy. Current United Nations policy affirms that records over 20 years old should be made widely available unless they are classified; however, inadequate classification of documentation at the point of creation, as well as insufficient resources to conduct declassification reviews, hamper access. During the transition period, specialized resources will be targeted towards screening and declassifying large volumes of archival records in the custody of the archives that meet the criteria for public access.

(g) *Facilitate requests*. A user-friendly request management system will be developed. The request process should be clear, simple and accessible in several ways. Chargeback and financing mechanisms as well as delivery of service at little to no cost will be explored. Such systems will be prototyped and piloted.

(h) *Elaborate an internal review mechanism*. The regulatory infrastructure and composition of the proposed internal review mechanism for individuals who feel they have been wrongly denied access to Secretariat documentation will be elaborated, including developing the rules of procedure.

Phase two (from June 2008 onwards)

44. Within the Department of Management, the office dedicated to manage the public access to documentation programme will be in place and fully staffed and the policy will enter into force. The office requires adequate resources to manage an access to documentation policy effectively. The office will provide resources for staff and management with regard to information and records management, archives management and preservation, as well as access to information. The anticipated functions of the office are:

(a) To disseminate an information products inventory and accessible information, primarily through a dedicated website;

(b) To ensure that the mechanisms for receiving requests and conducting internal reviews are operational;

(c) To ensure communication, training and education;

(d) To ensure reporting, evaluation and improvement.

D. Conclusions and recommendations

45. By establishing capability and capacity for the Secretariat to implement a public access to documentation policy, the Organization will demonstrate good governance through enhanced transparency.

46. The best strategy for the Secretariat to implement the policy and to meet transparency requirements is to improve effective management of its records. Meeting best practices in this area would add value to all Secretariat operations. In this respect, the policy would have the following benefits:

(a) Promoting sound decision-making based on full, accurate and up-to-date information;

(b) Allowing the rationale for those decisions to be traced, scrutinized and justified, as necessary.

(c) Promoting compliant business practices;

(d) Promoting the managed identification of documentation that the Organization may wish to retain or destroy;

(e) Streamlining business processes;

(f) Reducing both human and physical resources needed to manage and exploit records.

47. For the reasons highlighted, the introduction of public access to United Nations documentation is envisaged to be undertaken as a two-phased process. Accordingly, the total estimated funding requirements for phases one and two of the proposal for public access to United Nations documentation amounts to $6,773,000. Of this amount, requirements for phase one, amounting to $1,820,900, would provide for policy implementation, comprising posts ($464,000) and non-post ($1,279,800) resources under section 28 D, Office of Central Support Services, and section 35, Staff assessment ($77,100), to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

48. The amount requested for posts would provide for three Information Management Officer posts: one P-5 to head the effort, supported by one P-4 and one General Service (Other level). Non-post resources would provide for general temporary assistance ($435,600), contractual services to analyse United Nations information assets, substantive expertise, training development and facilitation, training ($400,000) and other operating costs ($444,200). It is expected that the project costs would rise under phase two largely for the continuing post costs relating to the anticipated initial spike in volume for access to information requests as the policy goes into effect, as well as consulting support and sustained training programmes to develop capacity across the Secretariat. Resource requirements for phase two and ongoing maintenance of the project would be submitted for consideration by the General Assembly in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

V. Actions required of the General Assembly

49. **The General Assembly may wish:**

(a) **To note the intention of the Secretary-General to submit a single, comprehensive annual report to the General Assembly that would contain both financial and programme information, as referred to in section II of the present report;**

(b) **To welcome the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General to consolidate reports on related subjects, if so decided by the Main Committees, and endorse the consolidation of the reports reflected in annex I to the present report;**

(c) **To note the policy on public access to United Nations documentation, as set out in section IV of the present report;**

(d) **To decide to appropriate a total amount of $1,820,900, comprising $1,743,800 under section 28 D, Office of Central Support Services, and $77,100**

under section 35, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

Annex I

Reports proposed for consolidation

Report	*Document symbol*	*Action recommended*
		Merge
Report of the Secretary-General on a strengthened and united security management system for the United Nations	A/60/424 with programme budgetary reporting	One merged report (from two)
Report of the Secretary-General on investments of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund	A/C.5/59/11 (two versions)	One merged report (from two), currently submitted twice, once to Pension Board, then to General Assembly. Propose submitting single report through Pension Board Standing Committee
Series of separate annual reports on financing of the United Nations Mission/Operation in	Individual budget and financial performance reports for 16 peacekeeping missions and the support account (see annex II for document symbols)	Two consolidated reports (from 34): a single consolidated budget report covering all peacekeeping operations and the support account; a single consolidated financial performance report and addenda to the main document containing the results-based budget frameworks for each mission and the support account Note: links with proposal 17 on consolidation of peacekeeping special accounts *Benefit*: 38 reports become 4 reports
		Conform cycles
Report of the Secretary-General on the contributions made by the Department of Management to the improvement of	A/60/342 with A/60/70	One biennial report (from four annual submissions); four reports would be merged in content and their cycles

Report	Document symbol	Action recommended
management practices; report of the Secretary-General on progress and impact assessment of management improvement measures		harmonized in a single biennial report *Benefit*: 4 reports become 1 *Produce biennially*
Report of the Secretary-General on administration of justice in the Secretariat: annual report on the outcome of the work of the Joint Appeals Board during 2001 and 2002; annual report on the outcome of the work of the Joint Appeals Board during 2002 and 2003	A/58/300 with A/59/70	One biennial report (from two annual); trend analysis can also be summarized in proposed annual report; decision already taken to integrate Office of Ombudsman reporting into Joint Appeals Board and Panel of Counsel reporting in future *Benefit*: 2 reports become 1 *Use information and communication technology (Web/extranet)*
Report of the Secretary-General on list of staff of the United Nations Secretariat	A/C.5/60/L.2	Eliminate paper report; provide continuously updated information on the Office of Human Resources Management website *Benefit*: Exploit existing technology (qualitative benefit) *Integrate into proposed annual performance report*
Report of the Secretary-General on measures to strengthen accountability in the United Nations	A/60/312	Zero separate report (from one) *Benefit*: 1 report becomes 0 **Total proposed benefit: 45 reports become 6**

Annex II

Document symbols for peacekeeping-related reports

Peacekeeping body or account	*Performance report 2004/05*	*Budget report 2004/05*
United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)	A/60/628	A/58/662
United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)	A/60/637	A/58/638
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)	A/60/629	A/58/659
United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB)	A/60/700	A/58/706
United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)	A/60/634	A/58/657
United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)	A/60/615	A/58/658
United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)	A/60/645	A/58/744
United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL)	A/60/631	A/59/286
United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)	A/60/626	A/60/190
United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET)	A/60/614, A/60/703*	A/59/290
United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG)	A/60/643 and Corr.1	A/58/640
United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB)	A/60/612	A/59/300
United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)	A/60/630	A/59/289
United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)	A/60/669	A/58/701, A/59/707
United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	A/60/584	A/58/644

Peacekeeping body or account	*Performance report 2004/05*	*Budget report 2004/05*
United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)	A/60/646	A/59/288
Support account	A/60/681 and Add.1	A/58/715